

the commitment that NATO made at its last meeting in January to try to see what can be done to open the Tuzla airport. But there are ongoing negotiations there now.

Again, we have sought the involvement of the Russians in this regard, and we think that there's a chance that we'll be able to have some success in Tuzla. We've discussed what our options are, and I think you'll see more about that in the days ahead.

**Q.** Are you concerned about the recent NATO air strikes that resulted in increased bombing of the Tuzla area? I mean, your message is that you're not going to tolerate violation of the no-flight zone, but how do you reinforce that to prevent the increased activity?

**The President.** Well, right now our authority beyond what's going on in Sarajevo is confined to enforcing the no-fly zone. And we did that. But I want to say again what I said yesterday: It was based on the authority vested through the United Nations last April. It was something done in the course of business to do what we are required to do. It should not be read in any way as a departure of strategy or tactics because of what's going on now generally. And I think it should only serve to make people want to resolve this more quickly, to go on with the negotiations now. That's what I'm hopeful of.

**Q.** To follow up, if I may, sir, though—if there were indeed other bombing missions and the attacks step up on these other areas outside of Sarajevo, what can NATO do to prevent the spread of this violence?

**The President.** Well, right now, I'll say again, the authority we had with regard to artillery, that is, on the ground attacks, is the authority to remove artillery from around the Sarajevo area to create the safe zone. All other authority is related to stopping the war from spreading into the air. And we're talking about what we can do in Tuzla now. That's what you'll see, I hope, unfolding in a very positive way over the next few days.

**Prime Minister Major.** I have something to add. I think what people have to realize is that what is developing is developing on a twin track. There is the track of seeking a political settlement. And some progress has been made between the Muslims and the Croats here in Washington over the last cou-

ple of days. And then of course, there's the second track of what is actually happening on the ground. And I think one saw in Sarajevo a classic illustration of how an agreement can be reached on the ground that leads in due course to the corralling of weapons. So I think both those tracks will continue.

But as far as the no-fly zone is concerned, the incident that occurred yesterday, where I think it was entirely justifiable to shoot down the planes that were intruding in the no-fly zone, could have happened at any stage in the last year. It certainly isn't a departure from accepted policy. At any time in the last 12 months that could have occurred.

**The President.** Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 50th news conference began at 9:20 a.m. in the Diplomatic Entrance of the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the South African Inkatha Freedom Party; Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress; and Governor Chris Patten of Hong Kong. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Members of the House Budget Committee

March 1, 1994

### The Economy

**Q.** How do you like the economy, Mr. President?

**The President.** Well, I'm encouraged by the growth figures and by the fact that all the indicators are that there's no significant increase in inflation. So it's good to have that information.

I think it's plain—if you look at what happened in the fourth quarter of last year, we had the normal increase in consumer spending because of the holidays, and the accumulated impact of low interest rates bringing more and more investment. And so what we've got to try to do is to keep working to bring the deficit down, to keep interest rates down, to make targeted investments with public money where our country needs it the most, and to try to keep this climate down.

We have more investments coming in so we've created more jobs. It's very encouraging. It's a good sign.

### **Northern Ireland**

**Q.** Have you given any second thoughts about having Gerry Adams come to this country since what he has said, since he has made his comments, since——

**The President.** No, I don't know yet, I don't think we can draw a conclusion yet that it will in the long run be a positive thing for the peace process, but I don't think we can say it's negative, either. I think that we made a judgment call that we ought to try to encourage them to move towards the joint declaration and to try to make peace. I think it was a good judgment call. I think it was well-founded, and I still believe that.

### **Health Care Reform**

**Q.** Are you beginning to have a sense of where Congress is going now on the health care plan? And do you have any ideas about where some of the major compromises are coming right now?

**The President.** No, because they're still in the subcommittees. I don't, but I will before long.

### **Balanced Budget Amendment**

**Q.** Have you got the votes to beat the balanced budget?

**The President.** I don't know. We've got a record that ought to defeat it. I mean, the problem with the amendment if you read it is, on its terms, if it's carried out, it will require either a large tax increase or big cuts in defense and domestic programs critical to our job growth or both. And if it's ignored, it will—by ignoring it, that is if you say, "Well, we can't do this; we're going to suspend it," then you put the whole future of the country in the hands of the 40 percent plus one vote in both Houses of Congress. And I don't think that's a very good thing.

Under the plan we're now following, if the Congress adopts this budget with its spending limits, we'll have the first 3 years since the Truman Presidency a declining deficit. We're moving in the right direction. I think that's very important. So I hope that the Sen-

ate will not adopt it. I know it's politically popular, but I don't think it's good policy.

And I'd like to point out for the point of view of the American people who say, "Well, State and local governments do it," all State and local governments make sharp distinctions between long-term capital investments and current expenditures. And this balanced budget amendment makes absolutely no distinction. So it would be far more severe than State and local balanced budget laws and with a very uncertain economic impact. So I'm hoping the Senate will reject it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:21 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### **Remarks Welcoming the Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys**

*March 1, 1994*

I'm glad to be here with the people who are negotiating my next year's salary. [*Laughter*]

Ladies and gentlemen, it's a great honor for all of us at the White House to have the Dallas Cowboys back here for a second year in a row. Coach Johnson, your team has a knack for coming to the White House.

I said they were negotiating my next year's salary. I really—until you hired Bernie Kosar, I sort of wanted to be the backup quarterback. [*Laughter*] I'm the right height.

I want to congratulate Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith and Russell Maryland and Michael Irvin for being selected to the Pro Bowl and for their brilliant play.

I also want to say that I really identify with the season the Cowboys had this year. They lost their first two games; they were even behind in the Super Bowl, but they kept coming back. Now the decade is not even half over, and they've already won two Super Bowls. There's no telling what this team can do. It's young. It's aggressive. It has a good attitude. It has great leadership.

And I have to say, a little bit of parochial pride on behalf of my State, that I'm really proud of the work that Jerry Jones has done with the Cowboys in such a few years and proud of the remarkable achievements this